

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This action is responsive to the amendment of January 5, 2009, in which claims 3 and 9 were pending, and the interview concluding March 25, 2009 (summarized below). Claim 9 is now allowed subject to the examiner's amendment set forth below.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Armstrong on March 25, 2009.

3. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.126, allowed claim 9 will be renumbered as claim 1 (see MPEP 608.01(j)). Original claim numbering is employed in the instant amendment.

Substance of the interview concluding March 25, 2009

4. On March 18, 2009, the examiner contacted applicant's representative to propose amendments to claim 9 that would resolve all remaining issues and place the claim in condition for allowance. After consulting with applicant, applicant's representative contacted the examiner on March 25, 2009 and agreed to the amendment subject to the correction of 2 errors in the draft language as proposed by the examiner. Accordingly, claim 9 is now allowed subject to the examiner's amendment included herein.

5. **Amend the claims as follows:**

a) **Cancel claim 3.**

b) **Amend claim 9 as follows:**

9. A method for assessing the genetic risk for hypertension in a human male subject, the method comprising the following steps (i) to (iii):

(i) analyzing the following polymorphisms (1) to (3) in a nucleic acid sample from the human male subject, ~~the polymorphisms comprising:~~

(1) a polymorphism at the base number position 1648 of the glycoprotein Ia (Gpl^a) gene, wherein the polymorphism is ~~Gpl^a~~ A1648G;

(2) a polymorphism at the base number position 190 of the chemokine receptor 2 (CCR2) gene, wherein the polymorphism is ~~CCR2~~ G190A; and

(3) a polymorphism at the base number position 1100 of the apolipoprotein C-III (apo CIII) gene, wherein the polymorphism is ~~apoCIII~~ C1100T; ~~and~~

(ii) determining, based on the information about polymorphisms which was obtained in the step (i), the genotype ~~in~~ of the nucleic acid sample from the human male subject; and

(iii) assessing, based on the genotype determined, a genetic risk for hypertension in the human male subject, wherein a genotype including A at position 1648 of the Gpl^a gene, A at position 190 of the CCR2 gene, and C at position 1100 of the apo CIII gene indicates a genetic risk for hypertension in the human male subject.

Art Unit: 1634

6. In the specification, at page 1, after the title, add the following:

This application is the national state of PCT/JP03/12052, filed September 22, 2003.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diana B. Johannsen whose telephone number is 571/272-0744. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday and Thursday, 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla can be reached at 571/272-0735. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Diana B. Johannsen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1634